

The Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce

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EXHIBIT

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BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
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FEB 04 2010

February 3, 2010

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Mr. Paul Stacey

Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
State Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06160

Dear Mr. Stacey,

The Greater Norwich Chamber of Commerce has a membership of over 470 businesses and non-profit organizations in the southeastern Connecticut region. The membership of the Greater Norwich Chamber of Commerce is in *utter disagreement* with the proposed stream flow regulations as they are currently written.

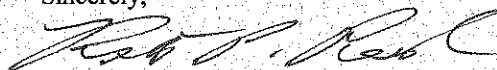
As you are aware, countless businesses, non-profits, agriculture, nursing homes, cities and towns rely on clean water systems. These systems are vital to operating successful businesses that are an important piece of a vibrant local economy. The negative impact of the stream flow regulations on our members and their employees will be substantial.

The Chamber is astutely aware of the importance of a healthy ecological system with Norwich being host to three rivers, a flourishing harbor and countless streams. It is at this harbor that our organization hold its' Annual River Fest and Dragon Boat Race. This annual event brings the community together for a spirited day of boat racing and educational instruction and demonstrations on the importance of a healthy and flourishing river system and environment.

The State of Connecticut currently has a gargantuan deficit of millions of dollars and growing. Future deficit projection estimates from the Office of Policy and Management and the Office of the Comptroller are even larger. At a time when the State of Connecticut is in such financial discord and job growth is at a halt, to pass unnecessary expenses onto small businesses and municipalities are not good judgment. These regulations may result in enormous infrastructure costs that will be passed onto businesses and families that cannot afford these increases in charges in a time of fiscal insufficiency. Tax revenues will plunge, job creation will continue to luster if infrastructure improvement costs are passed onto businesses that cannot afford them in present day economic conditions.

We ask that the Department of Environmental Protection reevaluate the stream flow regulations with a wider assessment of Connecticut's rivers and streams. This will allow for a greater and balanced outcome that the state and all those concerned will be satisfied with. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Robert Reed

Pulling together we can accomplish great things!